United Nations A/66/390–S/2011/605

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 October 2011
English
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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a complaint against Israeli enemy forces which, on 25 August 2011, directed medium machine gun fire towards Lebanese territory.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36 on the situation in the Middle East, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-52755 (E) 041011 041011

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Annex to the identical letters dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Yarzeh, 16 September 2011

Subject: Firing of weapons by the Israeli enemy over Lebanese territory

I transmit to you herewith a Lebanese Army communication dated 15 September 2011, which indicates that, at 2030 hours on 25 August 2011, as Israeli enemy forces at the Matat barracks were firing medium machine guns (12.7 mm), they fired towards Lebanese territory. Two bullets exploded over the Abu Shinan position of the Lebanese Army, and several other bullets exploded over Talat Qatmoun on the outskirts of Rumaysh, near the old church (some 500 metres from the Lebanese Army position).

Please review this information and present a complaint to the United Nations concerning this enemy violation.

(*Signed*) George **Shareem**
Brigadier General
Chief, Military Cabinet

United Nations A/66/391

General Assembly

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3 October 2011

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 19
Sustainable development

Letter dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and the attached "Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes" as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Paul **Seger**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-52831 (E) 051011

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué

Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes

Montreal, 7 September 2011. On Saturday, 3 September 2011, the past, present and future Presidents of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed and signed, at their annual high-level meeting at Chateau Bossey, Switzerland, the "Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes".

The meeting was opened by Mr. Tatsushi Terada, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of Japan, speaking on behalf of the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Participants also heard a statement from Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment in the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and viewed a short video message from Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Following an update from Mr. Hem Pande, representing the Government of India, on the preparations for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in 2012, participants reviewed the draft "Call for Urgent Action" and adopted it as proposed after some discussion. A separate report of the meeting will reflect this discussion, which focused on a number of emerging issues that will be further developed for inclusion in future meetings of the Presidents.

The "Call for Urgent Action" confirms the continued declining status of global biodiversity, commits its signatories to increased implementation action to reverse this decline and calls on Governments to:

- Sign and ratify, as soon as possible, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- Develop and implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans and adopt national and regional targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Celebrate the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity
- Consider convening a high-level event on biodiversity with the participation of Heads of State and Government at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, to be held in September 2015, on the occasion of the midterm evaluation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Increase efforts towards achieving synergies among the three Rio conventions in the light of the interconnectivity of biodiversity, climate change and desertification

The full text of the "Call for Urgent Action" and the report of the meeting can be accessed from http://www.cbd.int/hlm/2011/.

The "Call for Urgent Action" will be forwarded to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session and also to the high-level segment of the special session of the Assembly on desertification, to be held later in October in New York.

United Nations A/66/392

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 22 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted at the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held on 23 September 2011 in New York (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22 (b).

(*Signed*) Jose Antonio **Dos Santos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-52997 (E) 101011

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries

New York, 23 September 2011

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of landlocked developing countries, having met in New York on 23 September 2011 on the sidelines of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[1] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[2] adopted in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2003,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 56/180, 57/242, 58/201, 59/245, 60/208, 61/212, 62/204, 63/228, 64/214 and 65/172 related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries to be addressed by effectively implementing the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recalling the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, of 3 October 2008,[4] which stressed that the higher cost of moving goods across borders for landlocked developing countries puts their products at a competitive disadvantage and that landlocked developing countries continue to face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems,

Recalling also the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round, adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries Responsible for Trade, held in Asunción on 10 August 2005, the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries Responsible for Trade, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 August 2007, as well as the Ezulwini Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries Responsible for Trade, held in the Kingdom of Swaziland on 21 and 22 October 2009,

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[5] that was adopted by Heads of State and Government on 22 September 2010, in which they reiterated

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[1] Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3, annex II).

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 63/2.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

their recognition of the special needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries, caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea and remoteness from world markets, and stressed the need to overcome these vulnerabilities and build their resilience. They called for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action as presented in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the development challenges faced by our countries owing to the geographical disadvantage of having no territorial access to the sea and the ensuing serious difficulties for the effective integration of our economies into the multilateral trading system permeate every aspect of the development process, including economic growth, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with the landlocked and transit developing countries, which need to seek to create conditions in which resources can be generated, attracted and effectively mobilized to address their development challenges, but that their efforts need to be given continued international support by development partners and international and regional organizations in a spirit of shared responsibility, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and taking into account regional integration agreements,

Expressing support for those landlocked developing countries emerging from conflict with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Acknowledging the invaluable and continued support provided by development partners, including the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, bilateral partners, civil society and the private sector, and the role of South-South cooperation with a view to tackling the critical challenge of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, in particular by developing adequate transport infrastructures and establishing transit transport systems,

Expressing our concern about the re-emergence of rising food and energy prices, compounded by the negative impact of climate change, which have adversely impacted the economic and social progress achieved by the landlocked developing countries in recent years and have increased their vulnerability and weakened their ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Adopt the following communiqué:

1. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment towards the accelerated implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action through effective and genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit countries and their development partners as well as between public and private sectors at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels, as these partnerships are essential for the timely achievement of all the internationally agreed development goals, including the

Millennium Development Goals, and full and meaningful integration of the landlocked developing countries into the global economy;

2. We welcome the progress made by the landlocked developing countries, their development partners and transit neighbouring countries towards implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, as evidenced by a number of transport and trade facilitation measures that have reduced border delays and inefficiencies; some expansion in transit transport infrastructure development; increased efforts to harmonize norms and standards in the transport sector; improvements in development assistance allocated to the transport, storage and communications sectors of landlocked developing countries; and some increase in foreign direct investment, remittances and debt relief;

3. We remain concerned, however, that despite the increased efforts in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to face high trade transaction costs that put their products at a competitive disadvantage, discourage foreign investment and are the main reason behind their continued marginalization within the global economy. Persistent challenges have prevented landlocked developing countries from fully using trade as an instrument for raising domestic savings required to accelerate economic growth and to sustain progress towards the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. We express concern that inadequate transport infrastructure development, including the state of regional trade corridors, the deterioration of existing stocks, the persistence of key missing links, the lack of efficient inland transport linkages, such as between rail and port facilities, as well as sustainable resources for maintenance remain a major bottleneck to trade expansion for the landlocked developing countries. Transit transport problems still persist, such as insufficient carrying capacity at ports, port and customs clearance delays, fees and obstacles owing to cumbersome customs procedures and other regulatory constraints, and weak legal and institutional arrangements, as well as costly bank transactions;

5. We also express concern about the continued lack of export diversification that makes our economies vulnerable to external shocks, and urge the international community to assist the landlocked developing countries to implement policy measures to strengthen and broaden their productive capacities and enhance value addition to their exports in order to be able to reap available trade opportunities;

6. We are deeply concerned that, while landlocked developing countries suffered tremendously from the impact of the global economic downturn and have only just started on their path to recovery, soaring food prices and commodity price volatility have re-emerged affecting the livelihoods of our populations and hampering our efforts to sustain economic growth. We therefore re-commit to deploy all efforts to strengthen our resilience to the impact of external shocks and enhance further implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

7. In this regard, we urge the international community, development partners and multilateral development institutions, including United Nations

institutions, to scale up support to landlocked developing countries through increased financial and technical support to enable them to cope with multiple external shocks and to mitigate the impact of new and emerging challenges on the most vulnerable segments of their populations;

8. We also call upon international organizations and other research institutions to undertake research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks and develop a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used for early warning purposes;

9. We recognize that climate change poses a potentially permanent and serious threat to the economic and social development of our countries and can undermine our efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as we are least prepared to confront the challenges of adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects that would even further aggravate the disadvantages that our countries are facing. We are vulnerable to climate change impacts on agriculture production, frequent occurrence of natural disasters, land degradation and desertification. Other issues that affect landlocked developing countries include: food security, viability of inland fisheries, water availability, erosion of biodiversity and human health. We urge our development partners to provide financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to enable landlocked developing countries to address climate change challenges, in particular by putting in place on a priority basis effective adaptation strategies and appropriate mitigation actions, as well as to provide a special climate change financing facility for landlocked developing countries;

10. We encourage relevant international organizations including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations regional commissions to assist the landlocked developing countries to conduct studies to better understand the implications of climate change on landlocked developing countries and to develop measures to counter its adverse effects;

11. We underscore the importance of trade facilitation measures for the growth and expansion of the external trade of landlocked developing countries and its positive impact on their economic development. We call upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Development Round contains binding commitments ensuring freedom of transit, strict limits on fees, charges and formalities and transparency as well as common standards for documentation requirements, therefore allowing for the expedite movement, release and clearance of goods. The special needs of the landlocked developing countries must be taken fully into account to assist them to overcome their geographical disadvantages. The ultimate objective must be the lowering of transaction costs by reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

12. We call for a development-friendly solution to the current impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations that could open the way for a successful and ambitious conclusion of the 10-year round. This should increase market access, generate increased trade flows and focus on the needs of the landlocked developing countries. Emphasis should remain on the commitment to make operationally

effective the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries; to the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies; and to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Round. The final outcome should also adequately address the issue of technical assistance and capacity-building;

13. We underscore the importance of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to be held in April 2012 in Doha. We will make the necessary efforts in the negotiating process to contribute to a successful outcome of the Conference, placing development at the centre of the global agenda, to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth for developing countries. We must ensure that the Conference makes a difference and contributes in a very real way to the development efforts of all, in particular the most vulnerable. We shall effectively identify the challenges and actions needed by the landlocked developing countries to overcome our disadvantages. We also call upon developed and developing countries to support the group of countries with special needs in their efforts;

14. We also call upon relevant United Nations and other international organizations to provide greater support to strengthen the negotiating capacities of landlocked developing countries and their ability to implement trade facilitation measures;

15. We call for the provision of enhanced technical assistance to those landlocked developing countries that are still outside the rules-based multilateral trading system and wish to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO). We stress the need for taking into account the individual levels of development and the special needs and problems caused by the geographical disadvantage of being landlocked during the accession process and that all provisions on special and differential treatment reflected in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and in all WTO agreements shall be granted to all acceding landlocked developing countries. Targeted technical assistance should be provided to acceding landlocked developing countries during all stages of the process;

16. We reiterate our request that development assistance provided in the context of the Aid for Trade initiative should give adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries. Areas of targeted support should include capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations, implementation of trade facilitation measures, implementation of international agreements, investment in infrastructure for transport, telecommunications and utilities and strengthening of productive capacities with a view to increasing the competitiveness of our countries' products in export markets. We attach great importance to the Aid for Trade initiative and are committed to enhancing our participation in the monitoring process to better articulate our trade needs and priorities for support;

17. We underscore the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, as well as its key role in providing infrastructure for transport, telecommunications and utilities. We call on capital exporting countries to provide greater financial assistance and support to the efforts of landlocked developing countries to secure foreign direct investment by adopting and implementing economic, financial and

legal incentives to encourage foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries;

18. We call upon our bilateral and multilateral development partners not only to maintain current levels of official development assistance to landlocked developing countries, but to further raise commitments in order to support transit transport infrastructure development and trade facilitation projects in landlocked and transit developing countries, therefore enhancing intraregional connectivity, completing missing links and ensuring the proper functioning of strategic sea corridors;

19. We call for donor support through greater debt relief to help landlocked developing countries make progress towards the realization of the Almaty Programme objectives and achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

20. We commend the efforts made through South-South cooperation in the areas of transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries and request a scaling-up of the efforts that can help the landlocked developing countries to address the complex and severe development challenges that they face owing to their geographical disadvantages, thereby leading to the acceleration of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

21. We are committed to the realization of the mandate of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries and call on all landlocked developing countries to become signatories to its multilateral agreement. We commend the steps taken by the Government of Mongolia in advancing the operationalization of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in Ulaanbaatar. We call upon international organizations, in particular, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNCTAD and the regional commissions, donor countries and other leading centres of excellence to support the operational activities of the think tank;

22. We note that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network in 2003, which came into force in 2005, and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network in 2006, which entered into force in June 2009, have helped to promote investment for the development, maintenance and upgrading of the Asian Highway priority routes and of the Trans-Asian Railway Network, which have greatly benefited the region. We therefore call upon international organizations and donor countries to support the effective implementation of the projects identified under the Intergovernmental Agreements;

23. We take note of efforts being deployed by African landlocked developing countries to address the legal bottlenecks experienced by Africa's transit transport system owing to the lack of integrated and standardized road infrastructure. In this context, we support the work undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in consultation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. We request the Office of the High Representative to further its efforts in the promotion of an African transport infrastructure intergovernmental agreement, particularly for the Trans-African Highway;

24. We reaffirm our full and firm commitment to pursue a collective and constructive course of action at the United Nations and other relevant forums for the promotion and protection of our common interests. We emphasize that the needs and special problems of landlocked developing countries should be adequately addressed at the relevant upcoming global forums, in particular the Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011 and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

25. We encourage our development partners, including donors and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

26. We request the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to mobilize and coordinate international support and resources for the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review, in accordance with its mandate;

27. We invite the United Nations General Assembly to decide on the convening of the comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2013, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Programme of Action. We stress that the comprehensive review shall represent an important opportunity for landlocked and transit developing countries and our development partners to critically assess the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular its best practices and weaknesses, and develop a new common action-oriented strategic framework for the next decade, based on scaled-up partnerships among landlocked and transit developing countries with enhanced support from our development partners, with a view to effectively assisting our countries to effectively develop transit transport infrastructure and ensure connectivity through regional strategic trade corridors to access seaports or regional trade partners, therefore facilitating our integration in an increasingly complex and changing world economy. The new framework shall also provide for effective arrangements for follow-up, review and monitoring of its implementation. The Office of the High Representative shall coordinate the preparatory process for the review. UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank, the regional commissions and other relevant United Nations international and regional organizations shall provide substantive and technical assistance for that process. The review should be preceded by subregional, regional and substantive preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner. Two meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee should be convened in early 2013;

28. We welcome with appreciation the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of our Group as well as a preparatory global review meeting on international trade and trade facilitation in Almaty during the first half of 2012;

29. We request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake all necessary measures to provide the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States with the necessary resources to enable it to carry out its tasks

related to the preparations for the comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action and other related mandates given by the General Assembly;

30. We express our sincere appreciation to the efforts made by Paraguay, during its two-year tenure as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries in New York, as well as members of the Bureau, in advancing matters related to the development of our Group.

United Nations A/66/393

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and section 37, Staff assessment related to the strengthening of the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The resource requirements for the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi were presented as part of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination. However, owing to the timing of the finalization of the proposed programme budget, the requirements contained therein did not reflect adjustments arising from a subsequent review of the Office by the newly appointed Director-General.

Following a thorough review of the resource requirements by the new Director-General, who was appointed with effect from 1 May 2011, additional requirements for the strengthening of the Office of the Director-General have been identified. These additional requirements under section 1 amount to $427,800 net ($462,200 after recosting).

11-52600 (E) 101011

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I. Introduction

1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi was included in section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/6 (Sect. 1)). A dedicated post of Director-General at the Under-Secretary-General level was established for the Office in the biennium 2010-2011 by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/243. Following the finalization of the proposed programme budget for the forthcoming biennium and the submission of the related budget fascicle, the newly appointed Director-General joined the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the overall level of requirements of the Office was subjected to a thorough review. Owing to the timing of the issuance of the budget fascicles, the additional resources identified during the review for the strengthening of the Office were not able to be incorporated in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

2. The review of the totality of resource requirements for the Office indicated that, following the establishment of the post of the Director-General at the Under-Secretary-General level and the appointment of the Director-General with effect from 1 May 2011, there was a need for some limited strengthening of the Office. The related essential requirements consist of the establishment of three new posts, the upward reclassification of an existing post and some non-post resources. The revised estimates for the Office included in the present report reflect the additional requirements of the Office under section 1 of the proposed programme budget and amount to $427,800 net ($462,200 after recosting).

II. Proposals

3. At present, the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi comprises four posts (1 Under-Secretary-General, 2 P-5 posts and 1 Local level post). In order to augment and strengthen the capacity of the Office in the light of General Assembly resolution 64/243, it is proposed that three new posts be established (1 P-4 Protocol Officer and 2 Local level posts for an Administrative Assistant and a Legal Assistant). The proposed P-4 Protocol Officer would be responsible for carrying out the protocol functions of the Office and ensuring that the representational and liaison mandate of the United Nations Office at Nairobi is fully implemented. He/she would work closely with the representatives of the host Government, the diplomatic community and regional and subregional organizations. The Protocol Officer would also support the Director-General in her/his diplomatic and liaison functions as the representative of the Secretary-General in Nairobi. The proposed new Administrative Assistant would be responsible for providing administrative support and assistance to the Director-General, and the Legal Assistant would be responsible for providing assistance and support to the Senior Legal Officer of the Office in dealing with various legal issues, including relations with the host country.

4. It is also proposed that the post of Chief of Office (P-5) be reclassified to the D-1 level in recognition of the expanded operational, political and representational roles of the Office following the establishment and appointment of the dedicated Director-General post, which means it can no longer rely on the support of an established Executive Office, as was the case when the Director-General was also

the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The Chief of Office will provide support to the Director-General's oversight and coordination of the service divisions of the Office and the strengthening of its political and representational capabilities.

5. Concurrent with the request for additional posts and the reclassification of a P-5 post to the D-1 level, it is also proposed that the existing non-post resources of the Office be augmented with additional resources under other staff costs, travel, equipment and other operational requirements for the additional staff, to allow the Office to carry out its mandated functions.

III. Resource requirements

6. Resource requirements for the proposals indicated above for the biennium 2012-2013 amount to $427,800 net ($462,200 after recosting) and would provide for post costs in the amount of $319,900, comprising the proposed establishment of one P-4 and two Local level posts ($272,000) and the reclassification of one P-5 post to the D-1 level ($47,900), as well as for other operational requirements amounting to $107,900. A revised organization chart of the Office reflecting the staffing changes is provided in the annex to the present report.

7. The delayed impact of the three new posts requested in the present report for the biennium 2014-2015 is estimated at $200,300.

IV. Conclusion

8. It is recalled that while the General Assembly approved the post of the Director-General at the Under-Secretary-General level, it did not appropriate any other post or non-post resources in support of the new Director-General. The Secretary-General believes that, with the establishment of a dedicated post of Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, it is important to comprehensively review resource arrangements and to provide the Office with the resources necessary for it to carry out effectively the wide range of functions and responsibilities undertaken at this duty station, where the United Nations system presence is substantial. The request contained in the present report reflects the most essential needs of the Office, and would considerably strengthen the Office of the Director-General.

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly agree with the above proposals, additional resource requirements in the net amount of $462,200 would be required, in accordance with the provisions governing the contingency fund and the terms of Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. In this regard, it is recalled that the Assembly, in its resolution 65/262, approved a contingency fund for the biennium 2012-2013 in the amount of $40.5 million.

V. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

10. **The General Assembly is requested:**

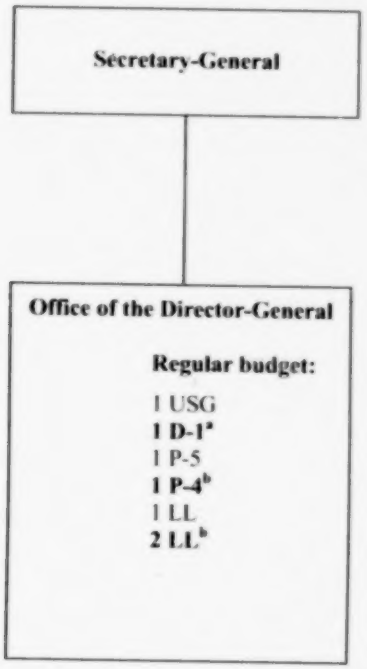
(a) To approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for strengthening the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

(b) To approve the establishment of three new posts in the Office (1 P-4 and 2 Local level) and the reclassification of the P-5 post of the Chief of Office to the D-1 level;

(c) To approve a total amount of $520,200 for the biennium 2012-2013 as follows: under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, $462,200, and under section 37, Staff assessment, $58,000, to be offset by a corresponding amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

Annex

Organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2012-2013: Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi



[a] Reclassification.
[b] New posts.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda items 133, 134, 139, 141, 144, 145 and 146

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Human resources management

United Nations common system

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011*

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

The present statement, submitted pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, describes the administrative and financial implications arising from the decisions and recommendations of the International Civil Service

* An advance copy of the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011 (A/66/30) was used in the preparation of the present statement of implications.

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Commission for the common system, in particular the implications for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011, the proposed programme budget of the United Nations and the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013. In the interest of providing comprehensive information, the statement also describes the implications for the budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations, commencing with those for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 peacekeeping financial periods.

Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Commission, the resource requirements arising from those recommendations under the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011 will be reported in the context of the performance reports for that biennium, and the resource requirements under the proposed programme budget of the United Nations and the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013 will be reflected in the corresponding proposed budget estimates for the biennium 2012-2013 prior to the determination of appropriations to be adopted by the General Assembly in December 2011. The resource requirements for peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations will be accommodated within the resources appropriated by the General Assembly for the 2011/12 financial period and will be taken into account in the context of the proposed budgets for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

I. Introduction

1. The annual report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011 (A/66/30) contains decisions and recommendations giving rise to financial implications for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011, the proposed programme budget of the United Nations and the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia starting with the biennium 2012-2013, and for the financial resources of peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations starting with the peacekeeping financial period 2011/12, related to the following issues:[1]

(a) Conditions of service applicable to staff in both the Professional and higher categories and the General Service and related categories:

(i) Mobility/hardship scheme;

a. Review of the level of the mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances;

b. Danger pay;

(b) Conditions of service for staff in the Professional and higher categories:

(i) The implementation of the 2010 place-to-place survey results for Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington D.C.;

(ii) Base/floor salary scale and review of staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross salaries.

II. Conditions of service applicable to staff in both the Professional and higher categories and the General Service and related categories

A. Review of the level of the mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances

2. At its seventy-third session, the International Civil Service Commission reviewed an analysis of the application of three adjustment factors prepared by its secretariat, namely the movement of net base salary plus post adjustment at headquarters duty stations, the movement of the out-of-area index, and the movement of the base/floor salary scale. The Commission also reviewed three options, which used the preceding factors as a basis, for increasing the current flat amounts of allowances under the mobility and hardship scheme for implementation with effect from 1 January 2012.[2]

[1] Although a recommendation to establish unified rates for special operations living allowance was approved by the Commission, there are no financial implications for the United Nations as the special operations scheme is not applicable to the Organization.

[2] See A/66/30, paras. 20-59.

3. While the three adjustment factors provided points of reference for a decision on the amount of the adjustment, the Commission emphasized that its decision should also take into account the guidance provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/248. In line with the resolution, and taking into account the current realities, most members considered that an increase of 2.5 per cent would be reasonable.

4. The Commission discussed whether to recommend the same percentage adjustment for all three elements of the mobility and hardship scheme (mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances) or whether each element could, or should, be adjusted separately. It was agreed that with a view to maintaining simplicity, all three allowances would be adjusted by the same percentage rate at this point in time. The Commission also noted that the same increase would be applied to the recently approved additional non-family hardship allowance for staff serving at non-family duty stations, since it falls under the mobility and hardship scheme.

5. The Commission decided:

(a) To grant a 2.5 per cent increase for each of the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances, for implementation with effect from 1 January 2012;

(b) That the additional non-family hardship allowance for staff serving at non-family duty stations should be adjusted by the same percentage as the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances, for implementation with effect from 1 January 2012.

6. The Commission noted that an overall increase of 2.5 per cent for the mobility and hardship scheme (i.e., hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances, as well as the additional non-family hardship allowance) as of 1 January 2012 would result in an additional estimated cost of $8.9 million for the year 2012 for the United Nations system organizations. Furthermore, the Commission noted that in addition to this cost, the changes to the hardship classification system approved by it at its seventy-second session would also represent an estimated cost of $8.3 million for the year 2012 for United Nations system organizations. These estimations were based on the flat hardship amounts, staff data for 2010, and the hardship ratings of field duty stations with effect from 1 January 2011.

7. The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to an overall increase of 2.5 per cent for the mobility and hardship scheme for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations and the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013 have been estimated at $1,138,200, $215,200 and $13,600, respectively.[5]

[5] The total expenditures incurred by the United Nations, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in 2010 under the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances were $9,901,900, $4,305,900 and $274,400, respectively. Consequently, an increase of 2.5 per cent in the levels of the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances would lead to increases of $247,500, $107,600 and $6,800 per annum, respectively, for the United Nations, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Since the additional non-family hardship allowance has been in effect only since 1 July 2011, available information on actual expenditures incurred does not provide a sufficient basis for the purposes of making cost estimates. The Commission estimated that the additional costs to the United Nations arising from the increase in the level of

8. The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to an overall increase of 2.5 per cent for the mobility and hardship scheme for peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations have been estimated at $1,874,700 and $29,900, respectively, for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and at $3,749,400 and $59,800, respectively, for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.[4]

9. The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to the approved changes to the hardship classification system for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013 have been estimated at $1,349,000.[5]

10. The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to the approved changes to the hardship classification system for peacekeeping operations have been estimated at $1,425,900 for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and at $2,851,800 for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.[5]

B. Danger pay

11. After considering three different methods for establishing the level of danger pay, the Commission decided to:

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non-family hardship allowance amount to $1,764,900 per annum. The best effort estimates the United Nations could make to calculate the corresponding costs for the regular budget and the budgets of peacekeeping operations would be based on the statistics of staff who were receiving hazard pay before 1 July 2011. Statistics on staff entitled to hazard pay for the cycle from 1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011 show that 18.22 per cent of these staff are funded under the regular budget (special political missions) and 77.03 per cent are funded under the budgets of peacekeeping operations. Consequently, the total additional costs of $1,764,900 per annum for the United Nations estimated by the Commission could be proportionally estimated at $321,600 and $1,359,400 per annum, respectively, for the regular budget and the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

[4] The total expenditures incurred by peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 under the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances were $95,602,600 and $3,164,300, respectively. Consequently, an increase of 2.5 per cent in the levels of the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances would lead to an annual increase of $2,390,000 and $59,800, respectively, for the budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations. As indicated in footnote 3, the total additional costs of $1,764,900 per annum arising from the change in the level of the additional non-family hardship allowance for the United Nations estimated by the Commission could be proportionally estimated at $1,359,400 per annum for the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

[5] The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to the approved changes to the hardship scheme for the United Nations were estimated at $3,702,200 by the Commission. An alternative estimate was made based on the statistics on staff who were receiving hazard pay before 1 July 2011, which is deemed as the best effort estimate the United Nations could make to calculate the corresponding costs for the regular budget and the budgets of peacekeeping operations. Statistics on staff entitled to hazard pay for the cycle from 1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011 show that 18.22 per cent of these staff are funded under the regular budget (special political missions) and 77.03 per cent are funded under the budgets of peacekeeping operations. Consequently, the total additional costs of $3,702,200 per annum for the United Nations estimated by the Commission could be proportionally estimated at $674,500 and $2,851,800 per annum, respectively, for the regular budget (special political missions) and the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

(a) Establish, effective 1 January 2012, the level of danger pay for internationally recruited staff at $1,600 per month;

(b) Apply, effective 1 January 2012, the payment modalities set forth in annex II of the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011. Danger pay, unlike hazard pay, would be paid for time away from the duty station on rest and recuperation travel and official duty travel up to a maximum of seven consecutive calendar days;

(c) Request its secretariat to conduct a study of the methodology for establishing the level of danger pay for locally recruited staff and report thereon to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, in 2012;

(d) Review the levels of danger pay for internationally recruited staff every three years;

(e) Establish, pending a review and as an interim measure, the level of danger pay at the rate of 25 per cent of the net midpoint of the applicable local General Service salary scale, to be adjusted as the salary scales were revised.

12. The financial impact of the Commission's recommendation with respect to the payment of danger pay would result in an annual saving of approximately $19.6 million for the United Nations system organizations owing to a reduction in the number of eligible duty stations when compared with the number of duty stations that were eligible for hazard pay.

13. The savings resulting from the Commission's recommendation with respect to the payment of danger pay for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013 would amount to $5,811,800.[6]

14. The savings resulting from the Commission's recommendation with respect to the payment of danger pay for peacekeeping operations would amount to $6,142,600 for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and $12,285,200 for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.[6]

[6] The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to danger pay for the United Nations were estimated as savings at $15,949,300 by the Commission. Since this allowance is a new benefit established, the best effort estimate the United Nations could make to calculate the corresponding costs for the regular budget and the budgets of peacekeeping operations would be based on the statistics on staff who are currently receiving hazard pay. Statistics on staff approved for hazard pay for the cycle from 1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011 show that 18.22 per cent of these staff are funded under the regular budget (special political missions) and 77.03 per cent are funded under the budgets of peacekeeping operations. Consequently, the total cost savings (reduced requirements) of $15,949,300 per annum for the United Nations estimated by the Commission could be proportionally estimated at $2,905,900 and $12,285,200 annually, respectively, for the regular budget and the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

III. Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories

A. Implementation of the 2010 place-to-place survey results for Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington, D.C.

15. As part of the operation of the post adjustment system, comprehensive place-to-place surveys are conducted periodically at all duty stations. Such surveys are organized in rounds of five years, and each round of surveys is launched with baseline surveys at all headquarters duty stations (namely, Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vienna and New York) and Washington, D.C.

16. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions regarding the results of the surveys carried out in 2010 were considered by the Commission, which decided:

(a) To approve the results of the 2010 place-to-place surveys for Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington, D.C., as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions;

(b) That the 2010 survey results for Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington, D.C., should be taken into account in determining their respective post adjustment classification with effect from 1 April 2011;

(c) That additional place-to-place surveys should be conducted for Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania in the middle of the present round of surveys.[7]

17. The estimated financial implications, based on the implementation of the survey results effective 1 April 2011, totalled approximately $7.5 million per annum. This estimate could vary significantly up or down, depending on the movement of the exchange rate of local currencies at designated duty stations relative to the United States dollar. It should also be noted that additional financial implications of approximately $1.2 million per annum, estimated by the Commission, would arise for staff costs at other duty stations linked to the above headquarters duty stations, such as staff costs at Brindisi, Italy, would be affected if the post adjustment for Rome were changed since the post adjustment applied in Brindisi is linked to that applied in Rome.

18. The financial implications of the recommendation for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 have been estimated as at $15,200 and $40,400, respectively, per calculations made by the Commission based on personnel statistics as of 31 December 2009 for staff in Washington, D.C., funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.

19. The financial implications of the recommendation for peacekeeping operations, per calculations made by the Commission based on personnel statistics as of 31 December 2009 for staff in Brindisi, Italy, have been estimated at $329,000 for each of the financial periods from 2011/12 and 2012/13.

[7] See A/66/30, paras. 107-109.

B. Base/floor salary scale and review of staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross salaries

20. The General Assembly, in section I.H of its resolution 44/198, introduced the concept of the base/floor salary scale[8] for staff in the Professional and higher categories, set by reference to the corresponding net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving in the base city of the comparator civil service (the federal civil service of the United States of America) with effect from 1 July 1990.

21. The Commission was informed that, as a result of the implementation of a pay freeze, the gross levels of the General Schedule of the comparator would not be adjusted between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2012. However, a slight change in the federal tax rate schedule, as well as for personal exemptions and standard deductions, has occurred as of 1 January 2011, with taxes for the states of Maryland and Virginia and in the Federal District of Columbia remaining unchanged. Despite the pay freeze, the change in the federal tax rates resulted in an increase of the reference comparator pay level in net terms, which amounted to 0.13 per cent as compared with the 2010 level. In accordance with the approved procedures, an upward adjustment of 0.13 per cent in the common system salary scale for staff in the Professional and higher categories has been recommended with effect from 1 January 2012. The increase in the base/floor salary scale would be implemented through the standard method of consolidating 0.13 per cent of the post adjustment into the base/floor salary scale on a no-loss/no-gain basis.

22. As the amounts of separation payments are linked to the base/floor salary scale, the annual financial implications resulting from the above-mentioned adjustment of the base/floor salary scale for the United Nations system organizations, estimated by the Commission, amount to approximately $64,600, comprised as follows:

(a) None for duty stations with a low post adjustment where net salaries would otherwise fall below the level of the new base/floor and might not be able to absorb a base salary increase;

(b) $64,600 in respect of the scale of separation payments.

23. In the context of the review of base/floor salary scale, the Commission also considered a request from the United Nations to revise the rates of staff assessment. This request was made to address the surplus that had accumulated in the Tax Equalization Fund, in particular, in the sub-account of the United States of America. According to estimates by the United Nations, a 15 per cent reduction in staff assessment revenue would be required to address this problem.

24. The Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly for approval with effect from 1 January 2012:

(a) The revised base/floor salary scale for the Professional and higher categories as shown in annex V to the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011, reflecting a 0.13 per cent adjustment implemented by increasing the base salary and commensurately reducing post adjustment multiplier points;

[8] See A/66/30, paras. 110-121.

(b) The revised rates of staff assessment used in conjunction with gross base salaries for the Professional and higher categories of staff as set out in annex V to the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011. The revised rates would be calculated and added to the net dependency rates of salaries to determine the corresponding gross salary levels. The staff assessment amounts for single staff would be computed by subtracting the net single rate from the gross salary at each grade and step in the salary scale.

25. The Commission also decided that the staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross salaries be reviewed every three years and revised as appropriate. The issue of a common scale of staff assessment rates for General Service and other locally recruited categories of staff would also be subject to review, as may be appropriate.

26. The financial implications with respect to the adjustment to the base/floor salary scale for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations and the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013 have been estimated at $8,800, $1,800 and $1,400, respectively.[9]

27. The financial implications with respect to the adjustment to the base/floor salary scale for peacekeeping operations have been estimated at $8,300 for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and at $16,600 for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.[9]

28. The financial implications with respect to the adjustment to the base/floor salary scale for the support account for peacekeeping operations have been estimated at $1,400 for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and at $2,800 for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.[9]

29. The financial impact on the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013 of the revision of staff assessment rates for the Professional and higher categories includes an estimated reduction of $80,839,300 under section 37, Staff assessment, and a reduction in the same amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, resulting in a zero net effect for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013.

30. The financial impact on the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013 of the revision of staff assessment rates for the Professional and higher categories includes estimated reductions of $2,366,300 and $3,151,200, respectively, under section 37, Staff assessment, and reductions in the same amounts under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, in the corresponding budgets

[9] The expenditures incurred in 2010 under the programme budget against the budget lines related to repatriation/termination indemnities amounted to $3,370,200, $697,400 and $546,300, respectively, by the United Nations, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and expenditures incurred for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 under the budgets of the peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations were $12,726,300 and $2,141,600, respectively. As the repatriation/termination indemnities are paid to staff affected on the basis of their base/floor salary, a change of the base/floor salary scale would affect the expenditures incurred. Therefore, the annual cost implications arising from this recommendation are estimated by multiplying the proposed increase of 0.13 per cent to the base/floor salary scale to the expenditures incurred in 2010.

of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, resulting in a zero net effect for the proposed programme budgets of the International Tribunals for the biennium 2012-2013.

31. The financial impact of the revision of staff assessment rates for the Professional and higher categories on the budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account are estimated as reduced requirements of $14,820,400 and $2,757,600, respectively, under section 37, Staff assessment, for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and reduced requirements of $29,640,800 and $5,515,200, respectively, for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, accompanied by reduced requirements in the same amounts under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the budgets for the corresponding financial periods, resulting in a zero net effect on the net requirements for the budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account for both the 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial periods.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

32. **The financial implications arising from the decisions and recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission have been summarized as follows:**

(a) **Additional net requirements of $15,200 for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011, and reduced net requirements of $3,275,400 for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (see table 1);**

Table 1
Summary of financial implications for the programme budget and proposed programme budget of the United Nations
(United States dollars)

	Biennium 2010-2011	*Biennium 2012-2013*
(a) 2.5 per cent increase to the level of the mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances, including additional non-family hardship allowance	—	1 138 200
(b) Approved changes to the hardship reclassification system	—	1 349 000
(c) Danger pay (reduced requirements)	—	(5 811 800)
(d) The implementation of the 2010 place-to-place survey result	15 200	40 400
(e) Base/floor salary scale	—	8 800
Total	**15 200**	**(3 275 400)**

(b) **Additional net requirements of $217,000 and $15,000 for the proposed budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, respectively, for the biennium 2012-2013 (see table 2);**

Table 2
Summary of financial implications on the proposed budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
(United States dollars)

	Biennium 2012-2013 International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	*Biennium 2012-2013 International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*
(a) 2.5 per cent increase to the level of the mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances	215 200	13 600
(b) Base/floor salary scale	1 800	1 400
Total	**217 000**	**15 000**

(c) Reduced net requirements of $2,504,700 and $5,338,400, respectively, for peacekeeping operations for the financial periods 2011/12 and 2012/13, and additional net requirements of $31,300 and $62,600, respectively, for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial periods 2011/12 and 2012/13 (see table 3).

Table 3
Summary of financial implications for peacekeeping operations and for the support account for peacekeeping operations
(United States dollars)

	1 July 2011-30 June 2012		*1 July 2012-30 June 2013*	
	Peacekeeping operations budget	*Support account*	*Peacekeeping operations budget*	*Support account*
(a) 2.5 per cent increase to the level of the mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances, including additional non-family hardship allowance	1 874 700	29 900	3 749 400	59 800
(b) Approved changes to the hardship reclassification system	1 425 900	—	2 851 800	—
(c) Danger pay (reduced requirements)	(6 142 600)	—	(12 285 200)	—
(d) Implementation of the 2010 place-to-place survey results	329 000	—	329 000	—
(e) Base/floor salary scale	8 300	1 400	16 600	2 800
Subtotal	**(2 504 700)**	**31 300**	**(5 338 400)**	**62 600**
Total (peacekeeping operations and support account)	**(2 473 400)**		**(5 275 800)**	

33. **Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Commission:**

(a) Requirements for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations will be addressed in the context of the performance report for the biennium 2010-2011;

(b) Requirements for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations and the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013 will be reflected in the corresponding proposed budget estimates for the biennium 2012-2013 prior to determination of the appropriations to be adopted by the General Assembly in December 2011;

(c) Reduced requirements for peacekeeping operations and the support account will be reported in the related performance reports for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and will be taken into account in the context of the proposed budgets for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

(d) As regards the estimated reduction in requirements of the United Nations for staff assessment for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 37, Staff assessment, in the amount of $80,839,300, these will be offset by a reduction of a corresponding amount of income under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment. These changes will also be reflected in the corresponding proposed budget estimates for the biennium 2012-2013 prior to determination of the appropriations to be adopted by the General Assembly in December 2011;

(e) As regards the estimated reduction in requirements for staff assessment in the proposed budgets of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012-2013 in the amounts of $2,366,300 and $3,151,200, respectively, these will be offset by a reduction of corresponding amounts of income from staff assessment. These changes will also be reflected in the corresponding proposed budget estimates for the biennium 2012-2013 prior to determination of the appropriations to be adopted by the General Assembly in December 2011;

(f) As regards the estimated reduction in the requirements for staff assessment in the budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 in the amounts of $14,820,400 and $2,757,600, respectively, these will be offset by a reduction of a corresponding amount of income from staff assessment, to be reported in the context of the related performance reports. Similar changes in the amounts of $24,151,600 and $4,493,800, respectively, will also be reflected in the cost estimates of the proposed budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda items 133, 134, 139, 141, 144, 145 and 146

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Human resources management

United Nations common system

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 8 and footnote 4

For the existing text *substitute*

8. The financial implications of the recommendation with respect to an overall increase of 2.5 per cent for the mobility and hardship scheme for peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations have been estimated

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at $1,874,700 and $39,600, respectively, for the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and at $3,749,400 and $79,200, respectively, for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.[4]

[4] The total expenditures incurred by peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 under the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances were $95,602,600 and $3,164,300, respectively. Consequently, an increase by 2.5 per cent in the levels of the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances would lead to an annual increase of $2,390,000 and $79,200, respectively, for the budgets of peacekeeping operations and the support account for peacekeeping operations. As indicated in footnote 3, the total additional costs of $1,764,900 per annum arising from the change in the level of the additional non-family hardship allowance for the United Nations estimated by the Commission could be proportionally estimated at $1,359,400 per annum for the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

2. Table 3

Replace table 3 with the table below.

Table 3

Summary of financial implications for peacekeeping operations and for the support account for peacekeeping operations

(United States dollars)

	1 July 2011-30 June 2012		*1 July 2012-30 June 2013*	
	Peacekeeping operations budget	*Support account*	*Peacekeeping operations budget*	*Support account*
(a) 2.5 per cent increase to the level of the mobility, hardship and non-removal allowances, including additional non-family hardship allowance	1 874 700	39 600	3 749 400	79 200
(b) Approved changes to the hardship reclassification system	1 425 900	—	2 851 800	—
(c) Danger pay (reduced requirements)	(6 142 600)	—	(12 285 200)	—
(d) The implementation of the 2010 place-to-place survey results	329 000	—	329 000	—
(e) Base/floor salary scale	8 300	1 400	16 600	2 800
Subtotal	**(2 504 700)**	**41 000**	**(5 338 400)**	**82 000**
Total (peacekeeping operations and support account)	**(2 463 700)**		**(5 256 400)**	

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General Assembly
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Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Note verbale dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 September 2011 from the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, on the recognition of the State of Palestine and its admission as a full member of the United Nations (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations formally requests the Secretary-General to circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

I address these words to the United Nations General Assembly, to this great forum where all the peoples of the earth are represented, to confirm, on this day and in this setting, Venezuela's full support for the recognition of the Palestinian State and of Palestine's right to become a free, sovereign and independent country. It is an act of historic justice towards a people that has always carried within it all the pain and suffering of the world.

In his memorable essay "The Grandeur of Arafat", the great French philosopher Gilles Deleuze wrote with the full weight of the truth when he stated that the Palestinian cause is first and foremost a set of injustices that these people have suffered and continue to suffer. And, I dare add, the Palestinian cause also represents a constant and unyielding will to resist that is already inscribed in the heroic memory of the human condition. A will to resist that springs from a very deep love for the land. Mahmud Darwish, the infinite voice of the longed-for Palestine, speaks about this love with heartfelt conscience:

"We don't need memories

because we carry Mount Carmel within us

and in our eyelids is the grass of Galilee.

Don't say: If only we could flow to my country like a river!

Don't say that!

Because we are in the flesh of our country

and our country is in our flesh."

To those who falsely assert that what has happened to the Palestinian people is not genocide, Deleuze points out with unfaltering lucidity that from the very beginning it has been a matter of acting as though the Palestinian people not only should not exist, but had never existed in the first place. This is the very essence of genocide: to decree that a people does not exist; to deny them the right to existence.

In that connection, the great Spanish writer Juan Goytisolo was quite right when he forcefully stated that the Biblical promise of the land of Judea and Samaria to the tribes of Israel was not a notarized property contract that authorized the eviction of those who were born and lived on that land. This is precisely why conflict resolution in the Middle East must, necessarily, bring justice to the Palestinian people; this is the only way to achieve peace.

It is upsetting and painful that the same people who suffered one of the worst examples of genocide in history have become the executioners of the Palestinian people; it is upsetting and painful that the heritage of the Holocaust should be the Nakba. And it is truly disturbing that Zionism continues to use the charge of anti-Semitism as blackmail against whoever opposes Zionist outrages and crimes. Israel has, blatantly and despicably, used and continues to use the memory of the victims. And it does so in order to act with complete impunity against Palestine. It is

worth mentioning that anti-Semitism is a Western and European scourge, in which the Arabs have no part. Let us also not forget that it is the Semite Palestinian people that suffers from the ethnic cleansing practiced by the Israeli colonialist State.

I want to make myself clear: it is one thing to reject anti-Semitism and an entirely different thing to passively accept that Zionist barbarity enforces an apartheid regime against the Palestinian people. From an ethical standpoint, those who denounce the former must condemn the latter.

A necessary digression: it is frankly improper to equate Zionism with Judaism. Throughout time we have been reminded of this by several Jewish intellectuals, including Albert Einstein and Erich Fromm. And today there are an ever-increasing number of concerned citizens in Israel itself who openly oppose Zionism and its criminal and terrorist practices.

It has to be spelled out: Zionism, as a world vision, is absolutely racist. Irrefutable proof of this can be seen in the terrifyingly cynical words of Golda Meir: "How can we return the occupied territories? There is nobody to return them to." "There were no such things as Palestinians ... It was not as though there was a Palestinian people ... considering itself as a Palestinian people and we came and threw them out and took their country away from them. They did not exist."

It is important to remember that from the end of the nineteenth century, Zionism called for the return of the Jewish people to Palestine and the creation of a national State of their own. This approach was beneficial for French and British colonialism, as it would later be for Yankee imperialism. The West has always encouraged and supported the Zionist occupation of Palestine by military means.

Read and re-read the document historically known as the Balfour Declaration of 1917: the British Government arrogated to itself the authority to promise a national home in Palestine to the Jews, deliberately ignoring the presence and wishes of its inhabitants. It should be added that Christians and Muslims lived in peace for centuries in the Holy Land, up until the time when Zionism began to claim it as its complete and exclusive property.

Let us recall that, beginning in the second decade of the twentieth century, Zionism started to develop its expansionist plans by taking advantage of the British colonial occupation of Palestine. By the end of the Second World War, the Palestinian people's tragedy had worsened, as they were expelled from their territory and, at the same time, from history. In 1947, the despicable and illegal General Assembly resolution 181 recommended the partition of Palestine into a Jewish State, an Arab State and an area under international control (Jerusalem and Bethlehem). Shamefully, 56 per cent of the territory was granted to Zionism to establish its State. In fact, that resolution violated international law and blatantly ignored the will of the vast Arab majority: the right to self-determination of peoples became a dead letter.

From 1948 to the present time, the Zionist State has continued with its criminal strategy against the Palestinian people, with the constant support of its unconditional ally: the United States of America. This unconditional allegiance is clearly demonstrated by the fact that Israel directs and sets United States international policy on the Middle East. That is why the great Palestinian and universal conscience, Edward Said, stated that any peace agreement built on the

alliance with the United States would be an alliance that confirmed Zionist power, rather than confronting it.

Now then: contrary to what Israel and the United States are trying to make the world believe through transnational media outlets, what happened and is still happening in Palestine — in Said's words — is not a religious conflict but a political one, with a colonial and imperialist stamp; it is not an age-old conflict, but a contemporary one; this conflict did not begin in the Middle East but in Europe.

What was and still is at the heart of the conflict? Debate and discussion have given priority to Israel's security, while ignoring that of Palestine. This is corroborated by recent events; it is enough to recall the latest act of genocide set off by Israel during its "Operation Cast Lead" in Gaza.

Palestine's security cannot be reduced to mere acknowledgement of a limited self-government and self-policing in its "enclaves" along the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip, leaving aside not only the creation of a Palestinian State with pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital, the rights of its citizens and their self-determination as a people, but also, as established by General Assembly resolution 194, the issue of compensation and subsequent return to the homeland of the 50 per cent of the Palestinian population that is scattered all over the world.

It is incredible that a country (Israel) which owes its existence to a General Assembly resolution could be so disdainful of the resolutions issued by the United Nations, as Miguel D'Escoto noted when pleading for an end to the massacre of the people of Gaza in late 2008 and early 2009.

Mr. Secretary-General and distinguished representatives of the peoples of the world,

It is impossible to ignore the crisis in the United Nations. In 2005, before this same General Assembly, we argued that the United Nations model had become exhausted. The fact that the debate on the Palestinian issue has been delayed and that it is being openly sabotaged is a further confirmation of that fact.

For several days, Washington has been indicating that it will veto in the Security Council what will be a majority resolution of the General Assembly: the recognition of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. In the declaration on recognition of the Palestinian State, Venezuela, together with the sister nations that make up the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), has always deplored that such a just aspiration could be blocked in this way. As we know, the empire, in this and other instances, is trying to impose its double standard on the world stage: Yankee double standards are violating international law in Libya, while allowing Israel to do whatever it wants, which makes the United States the main accomplice in the Palestinian genocide being carried out by the hands of Zionist barbarity. Edward Said touched a nerve when he wrote that Israeli interests in the United States have made that country's policy on the Middle East Israeli-centric.

I would like to conclude by quoting the words of Mahmud Darwish in his memorable poem "On This Earth":

"We have on this earth what makes life worth living:

On this earth, the Lady of earth, Mother of all beginnings

Mother of all ends. She was called ... Palestine.

Her name later became ... Palestine.

My Lady, because you are my Lady, I deserve life."

It will continue to be called Palestine. Palestine will live and will overcome! Long live free, sovereign and independent Palestine!

(*Signed*) Hugo **Chávez Frías**
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

United Nations A/66/396

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 26 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus in exercise of the right to reply to the remarks made by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on 22 September 2011, in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey on 22 September 2011 in the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus regrets that, even from the esteemed podium of the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Turkey, in his address during the general debate on 22 September 2011, proceeded to make threats by saying that Turkey will "do whatever is necessary" if the Government of the Republic of Cyprus continues with the exercise of its sovereign rights in its exclusive economic zone. It is Turkey's refusal to uphold international law and legality coupled with her turning a deaf ear to United Nations Security Council resolutions that creates tension and threatens to provoke a crisis, and not the exercise of the legitimate sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus according to international law and in particular the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Mr. Erdoğan also made unacceptable remarks on the ongoing direct negotiations between the two communities in their effort to resolve the Cyprus problem. If Mr. Erdoğan truly wishes to play a constructive role and "provide support to reaching a solution as soon as possible", as he claimed in his speech, he simply needs to encourage Mr. Eroglu, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, to cease to retract from already found convergences and work on the agreed basis for finding a solution to the Cyprus problem.

In this regard, Mr. Erdoğan should also himself cease to sustain Turkey's illegal puppet regime in the areas of Cyprus occupied by the Turkish military by signing "agreements" that are inevitably null and void under international law, most recently through a so-called agreement on the delimitation of Cyprus' continental shelf. Such agreements can only be entered into and have validity in the face of international law if they are concluded with the legitimate Government of Cyprus.

Not only is Turkey destructive with regard to the process of reaching a settlement to the Cyprus problem; moreover, Mr. Erdoğan preaches about the inviolability of Security Council resolutions and the need to uphold international law, but only when that concerns others! It seems necessary to remind Mr. Erdoğan that, if a speedy solution to the Cyprus problem is to be reached, Turkey itself needs to uphold numerous relevant Security Council resolutions and act within international law. Moreover, and given the provocative behaviour of Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean region, if any further tension arises it is Turkey who will be the sole culprit.

United Nations A/66/397

General Assembly

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4 October 2011

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 137
Pattern of conferences

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/66/118 and Corr.1). The Committee also had before it a draft version of the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2011 (A/66/32), which includes the text of a draft resolution on the pattern of conferences. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General, which was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/245 and other relevant mandates, contains information on conference management issues as well as initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat to improve the quality of conference services provided to Member States. The report also puts forward suggestions regarding measures that could be taken to improve the efficiency of the management of conferences and meetings at the United Nations. It is indicated that, consistent with the "paper-smart" initiative, additional statistical data supplementary to the report is available from the website of the Committee on Conferences.[1]

II. Meetings management

3. In paragraph 2 of his report, the Secretary-General provides information on the meetings planning system (g-Meets), which is part of the integrated conference management system (i-CMS). The planning system comprises two modules, which were launched in 2010 and 2011 at the four conference-servicing duty stations, New

[1] See http://dgacm.org/CoC/Report_of_the_SG_on_the_pattern_of_conferences_(A-66-118)_Supplementary_information.pdf.

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York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, and is capable of generating a global electronic calendar of conferences and meetings. According to the Secretary-General, the system was used to prepare the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-2013, which was approved by the Committee on Conferences at its September 2011 session.

4. With regard to a related matter, the Secretary-General invites the General Assembly to include in new legislative mandates all relevant information in respect of meetings and documentation in order to enable the Secretariat to fully assess conference-servicing needs that could have programme budget implications (A/66/118, para. 5). The Advisory Committee notes that the Committee on Conferences was of the opinion that Member States and the Secretariat should strive to make meeting planning a collaborative exercise whereby predictability is ensured and resources are utilized as efficiently as possible (A/66/32, para. 14). **The Committee recognizes the necessity of including in new legislative mandates all relevant information in respect of meetings and documentation in order to enable the Secretariat to fully assess the conference-servicing needs that could have programme budget implications. The Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General's proposal should be considered by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the provisions of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in which the procedure for dealing with decisions that have programme budget implications is clearly set out.**

5. The Secretary-General, in section II of the supplementary information,[1] provides statistical data and analysis on the utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities allocated to bodies that meet at the four headquarters duty stations. The data, which are compiled according to the methodology adopted by the Committee on Conferences, indicate that the overall utilization factor for conference-servicing resources and facilities for all duty stations in 2010 was 85 per cent, down from 86 per cent in 2009. New York in particular had a utilization factor of 81 per cent, compared with 84 per cent in 2009, resulting from the cancellation of 16 per cent of meetings and the ability to reassign only 61 per cent of the interpretation teams to other meetings. Similarly, the utilization factor for Nairobi decreased to 88 per cent in 2010 from 90 per cent in 2009 because of one cancellation and the inability to reassign the interpretation team (A/66/118, para. 8). **The Advisory Committee is disappointed at this recent negative trend and underlines the imperative of ensuring the full utilization of conference-servicing resources. The Committee expects to see improvement in the next report of the Secretary-General (see also paras. 7 and 8 below).**

6. The Secretary-General indicates that three intergovernmental bodies in New York, namely, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, the Statistical Commission and the Committee on Contributions, had a utilization factor of less than the benchmark of 80 per cent for three consecutive years. In that regard, the Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly reiterate its request to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficiency in using conference services (ibid., paras. 11 and 12). **The Advisory Committee supports the Secretary-General's proposal.** In this connection, the Committee notes that it is the mandate of the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to hold consultations with the intergovernmental bodies

that utilize less than the benchmark of 80 per cent of their allocated resources. According to the report of the Committee on Conferences, however, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and the Statistical Commission subsequently increased their utilization factor above 80 per cent in 2011; hence the consultation meetings would be necessary only for the Committee on Contributions, which has persistently underutilized the conference-servicing resources allocated to it.

7. In its report, the Committee on Conferences proposes additional remedial measures, such as reducing the impact of foreseeable cancellations by providing adequate advance notice and reducing meeting blocks to two hours when it is anticipated that less time is required and, whenever possible, adjusting the programme of work on the basis of past practice and actual utilization of conference services (A/66/32, para. 22). **The Advisory Committee welcomes the proposed measures aimed at increasing the overall utilization of conference resources.**

8. The Secretary-General indicates that the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had a utilization rate of 70 per cent in 2010, down from 76 per cent in 2009. He cites competition from the hotels and government conference halls in Addis Ababa as well as the cancellation of meetings by regular users of the conference centre as the main reasons for the decreasing utilization rate (A/66/118, para. 17). Furthermore, it was explained to the Committee on Conferences that the inflexible pricing structure and the security procedures at the ECA complex had also contributed to the decreasing utilization rate. In a particular instance, it was reported that an international organization that had regularly used the conference centre for its meetings in 2009 had, with effect from 2010, transferred its meetings to another location, citing the inconvenience of United Nations security procedures and the better rates at the other location. The Secretary-General also outlines some initiatives being undertaken by the Commission to market the activities of the conference centre (ibid., para. 18). **The Advisory Committee is concerned at the decreasing utilization rate of the ECA conference centre and calls upon the Secretary-General to act quickly in order to formulate a more competitive pricing structure and an appropriate marketing strategy.**

III. Integrated global management

9. The Secretary-General discusses the evolution of integrated global management as a means for the efficient utilization and allocation of the Department's resources and describes the proximity rule, contained in the revised Compendium of Administrative Policies, Practices and Procedures of Conference Services, as one of its many facets. According to the report, the proximity rule requires that for all meetings held away from headquarters, a team that involves the least cost for servicing such meetings is assembled, and the documents are translated remotely in the headquarters location where the secretariat of the body organizing the meeting is located. Furthermore, in order to ensure the most cost-effective service provision, the costs of using staff from different duty stations, including regional commissions, and freelancers are compared and the least costly arrangement is used, with replacement costs, available capacity and quality assurance duly considered (ibid., paras. 22-25).

10. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the application of the proximity rule resulted in a mixed team, thus allowing for the harmonization of policies, procedures and reporting tools, the proliferation of best practices and the development of a wide and versatile team of meetings management professionals throughout the Organization. The Committee was further informed that there have been instances in which the secretariat of a particular body has requested specific conference officers owing to their familiarity with technical or sensitive aspects of the subject matter of the meeting. This approach, according to the information provided, was being discouraged in the interest of developing a widely diversified and equally competent body of conference officers. Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that the proximity rule was applied consistently for all meetings, including those funded by extrabudgetary resources, held away from headquarters. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the total estimated savings in 2010 from the application of the rule amounted to $657,000 in travel costs alone. While every effort was made to book travel 45 days in advance of the departure date in order to save on air ticket costs, the Committee was informed upon enquiry that it was not always possible because of delays in the remittance of funds in cases where the meeting is fully or partially funded by the host Government.

11. **The Advisory Committee supports the proximity rule as an efficient approach to servicing meetings away from headquarters duty stations, and it welcomes the efforts made by the Department to achieve efficiencies through the application of the rule. The Committee agrees that secretariats should not be able to nominate their conference officers and thus attempt to override considerations of overall effectiveness. Notwithstanding the assertion that the savings in travel costs amounted to $657,000 in 2010, the Committee is unable to make a meaningful determination of the efficiencies gained and the financial savings realized from the information provided. The Committee is particularly concerned that insufficient attention is being given to ensuring that travel arrangements are made with a view to achieving the savings envisioned under the proximity rule. As a result, the savings achieved so far are disappointing and inadequate. The Committee urges the Secretary-General to address this issue urgently. In addition, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report on the pattern of conferences a more detailed analysis of the efficiencies gained as well as the lessons learned in this regard.**

12. The Secretary-General indicates that the Secretariat has undertaken a comprehensive review of conference management efficiency and accountability mechanisms across the four main duty stations pursuant to section III, paragraph 15, of General Assembly resolution 65/245, in which the Assembly reiterated an earlier request to the Secretary-General to develop mechanisms to enhance accountability for the effectiveness of the global management of conference services. In this connection, the Secretary-General confirms the principle of accountability and shared responsibility for conference services at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi between the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Directors-General of the three Offices (ibid., para. 25).

13. In a related matter, the Secretary-General indicates that harmonized amendments to the Secretary-General's bulletins on the organization of the three Offices will be developed to delineate and codify the dual responsibility of the Under-Secretary-General and the respective Directors-General in relation to conference management. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the

Committee on Conferences (A/66/32, para. 39) that while steady progress has been made, the issuance of Secretary-General's bulletins on organizational structures demands a careful review of various cross-organizational legal and administrative issues, which can be a lengthy process. **As indicated on previous occasions, the Committee underscores the importance it attaches to the authority and accountability of the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management in the management of all the resources provided under section 2 of the budget. The Committee maintains that sustainable efficiency gains can be realized only if the reporting lines within the Department are aligned so as to afford the Under-Secretary-General the authority required to fulfil General Assembly mandates. In that regard, the Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's approach and requests him to finalize the amendments to the bulletins quickly in order to allow the implementation of the required reforms. Any delay in this matter manifests itself in the form of higher costs for the Organization. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to report on the results in the context of the next report on the pattern of conferences.**

14. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, a global e-survey was carried out twice, in May and November 2010, to elicit feedback from Member and observer States in order to improve the quality of conference services. It is further indicated that, despite the Department's efforts, the response rates of 137 responses in May and 130 in November were disappointingly low, owing mainly to difficulties experienced in finding information on the calendar of meetings (A/66/118, paras. 28 and 29). **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that regular client surveys are an important means of gauging whether the objective of delivering quality conference services is being achieved. The Committee is of the view that this objective is undermined by the low response rate, which may also indicate a lack of awareness of or confidence in the survey. The Committee therefore urges the Secretary-General to explore means of improving the survey response rate.**

IV. Documentation and publications

15. The Secretary-General indicates that further progress was made in the area of proactive document management, with the slotting system having been implemented at the four main duty stations (ibid., para. 32). The Secretary-General indicates that in New York, the overall rate of timely submission of slotted pre-session documents for the first five months of 2011 reached 87 per cent (73 per cent in 2009 and 78 per cent in 2010). It is further stated that New York maintained 100 per cent processing compliance, meaning that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed within four weeks. In addition, 83 per cent of slotted pre-session documents were issued within the mandated time frame, compared with 76 per cent in 2009 and 82 per cent in 2010. The Secretary-General attributes the improved compliance with submission guidelines to the efforts to monitor and follow up with author departments on their submission schedules. He cautions, however, that significant variation remains in the submission rates among author departments, with only 25 of 48 departments (52 per cent) reaching the target compliance rate of 90 per cent in 2010. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the progress reported as a result of the implementation of the slotting system and**

encourages the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to continue its engagement with author departments in order to determine why only half of them have been able to achieve the target compliance rate.

16. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/190, urged the Secretary-General to ensure that pre-session documents for meetings were distributed not less than six weeks before meetings and that, in resolution 47/202, the Assembly urged substantive departments of the Secretariat to submit pre-session documents to conference services at least 10 weeks before the beginning of a session to allow sufficient processing time for all the official languages. The Committee notes, therefore, that the above resolutions allow four weeks for the processing of documents, referred to as the 10-4-6 time frame.

17. The Secretary-General invites the General Assembly to amend the document submission rules to a 10-6-4 time frame whereby departments would submit documents 10 weeks before the session, as mandated, and the documents would be distributed not less than 4 weeks before the meeting, allowing for a 6-week processing period. The Secretary-General explains that, because of time pressure, a manuscript is most often processed simultaneously on three paths, namely, editing, referencing and translation, also referred to as parallel processing, which is inefficient and time-consuming but often unavoidable. The Secretary-General argues that giving the Department six weeks for processing would facilitate the change to a sequential workflow in which manuscripts are edited, formatted and finalized in the original language before being sent for translation (ibid., paras. 44-48). Furthermore, as explained to the Committee on Conferences, the change would also permit the use of computer-assisted tools to enhance quality and consistency in addition to generating savings by decreasing reliance on temporary assistance.

18. The Advisory Committee notes that the Committee on Conferences did not reach consensus on the Secretary-General's proposal on the question of document-processing schedules (A/66/32, para. 42). **The Advisory Committee concurs that the potential benefits of a sequential workflow would support the case for increasing the processing time to six weeks. While the Committee is of the opinion that the increased application of more efficient electronic distribution mechanisms would help to compensate for the reduction in distribution time, it underscores the importance of taking into account the time required by representatives of Member States to review the documents.**

V. Translation and interpretation

19. According to the Secretary-General, the projected retirements for the period 2010-2016 will lead to a turnover of 43 per cent for interpreters and 40 per cent for translators, meaning that competitive examinations will have to produce 119 new recruits for interpretation and 217 for translation over that period. The Secretary-General acknowledges the challenges of attracting and retaining language staff and has instituted a review of the competitive examination process, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, with a view to simplifying it without compromising standards. He further indicates that the short-term remedy of using freelance interpreters has proven unsatisfactory because of their unavailability at short notice, global competition for their services and the fact that conditions of

their temporary employment at the United Nations are not always as attractive as those offered by other institutions (A/66/118, paras. 52-55).

20. With regard to the efficiency of the competitive examination process, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that for the 55 language examinations (for interpreters, translators, editors, verbatim reporters, copy preparers and proofreaders, language reference assistants and editorial assistants) held over the five-year period from 2005 to 2009, a total of 38,231 applications had been received. Of those, 21,830 candidates (57 per cent) had been convoked to the written examination and only 1,550 (7.1 per cent) of those taking the exam had been placed on the roster of candidates eligible for recruitment. The Committee was informed that the proposal being implemented in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management would introduce more robust and automated initial screening with effect from 2012 in order to reduce the number of applicants convoked to the written examination. **Given the very low rate of success in competitive examinations, the Committee welcomes the review of the examination process, especially the initial screening procedure. The Committee cautions, however, that measures to simplify the examination should not compromise the high quality requirements of the United Nations in the areas of translation and interpretation.**

21. The representatives of the Secretary-General explained that the Secretariat aimed at establishing a balance of about 75 per cent in-house to 25 per cent freelance capacity, which allowed for flexibility in handling workloads during both peak and normal periods. With regard to the shortage of freelance interpreters, especially in New York and Nairobi, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that there was a dearth of expertise across all language-related occupational groups, mainly for the reasons indicated in paragraph 19 above. The Committee was informed, however, that discrete circumstances accounted for variations in the availability of personnel among language groups. For example, the sizeable population of retired Arabic- and Chinese-language revisers and translators in the New York area provided a more than adequate pool of expertise. The representatives of the Secretary-General defended the use of retirees in terms of the savings in travel costs owing to their local availability as well as their experience, which facilitated a transfer of skills to the other staff. The Committee was further informed that, in order to address the general shortage of language staff, the Department was pursuing a three-pronged approach that involved the formalization of off-site translation, the review of competitive examinations (see para. 20 above) and the university outreach programme (see also paras. 23 and 24 below). **The Committee stresses the importance of establishing the right balance between in-house and freelance capacity. It also emphasizes the importance of creating the conditions to allow for an available pool of freelancers.**

22. The Advisory Committee was informed that consultations regarding off-site translation were continuing between the Secretariat and the International Association of Conference Translators with a view to renegotiating and updating the 1991 agreement between the Association and the United Nations system to formally incorporate off-site translation in the agreement. It was explained that the update would allow United Nations system organizations to leverage technology so that translation services could be provided by freelancers working from home anywhere in the world at substantial savings in terms of travel costs. Similarly, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the existing contract with the International

Association of Conference Interpreters was being renegotiated to align the remuneration levels of freelancers with those of other staff. In particular, the Committee was informed that the United Nations system organizations were proposing to peg the freelance pay rates to the salary scale for regular staff at the appropriate level plus the post adjustment for the appropriate location in order to help bridge what is commonly referred to as the "North American gap", whereby freelance interpreters working in New York are paid up to $70 less per day than those elsewhere. **The Committee expects the Secretary-General to report on the results in the next report on the pattern of conferences.**

23. The Secretary-General cites the outreach to universities programme as a means of attracting new talent from those institutions in order to address the shortage of qualified candidates. According to the Secretary-General, 19 universities covering the six official languages, and all the major regions except Latin America and the Caribbean, had signed memorandums of understanding with the United Nations. In addition, there is informal cooperation between the Department and two Latin American universities. Through the language internship programme, the Department has continued to attract and train young professionals, a number of whom have subsequently passed the language competitive examinations and been recruited into the language services as staff members. It is indicated that the 2011 vacancy announcement for language internships attracted more than 600 applicants, 65 of whom were hosted by the four main duty stations (ibid., paras. 57 and 58).

24. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the primary goal of the outreach programme was to have a steady stream of young language professionals available to fill vacancies as they arose in order to reduce the reliance on freelancers. The Committee recalls, however, that during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, it was informed that there were no dedicated budgetary resources for the internship programme and that it would soon reach its limit in terms of the number of interns who could participate. In addition, the pool of interns was limited by the cost of travelling to and living in New York, Geneva and Vienna, leading to certain language combinations being underrepresented (see A/66/7, para. I.76).

25. **While the Advisory Committee welcomes the Department's efforts to attract young professionals in order to address the shortage of language staff, it reiterates its concern that the lack of dedicated resources for the internship programme may limit the pool of available interns and encourages the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to secure extrabudgetary funding.**

26. In his report, the Secretary-General describes the training activities undertaken during the reporting period. It is indicated that traineeships are being used to enhance the pool of qualified professionals in language combinations that have been identified as problematic or critical for succession planning. Following the successes registered by the traineeship programmes in New York and in Vienna, the Department was considering options for formalizing a traineeship programme as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/245. The Secretary-General states, however, that the training, outreach and succession planning efforts have been hampered by a lack of budgetary resources and that in the absence of adequate human and financial resources, the programme relied on the voluntary efforts of language staff to undertake training and outreach activities, often at the expense of their regular work. Preliminary enquiries have been made to members of the League

of Arab States regarding funding for Arabic language training (A/66/118, paras. 60-65). The concerns of the Advisory Committee in this regard were expressed in its report on the 2012-2013 budget (A/66/7, para. I.76). **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General be encouraged to broaden efforts to secure extrabudgetary funding for training activities related to all six official languages.**

Proposal for the alternative delivery of summary records

27. The Secretary-General highlights the need to re-engineer the document-processing workflow in the light of technological advances in the field. In this connection, the Secretary-General indicates that the Department is exploring the application of computer-assisted translation tools, terminology databases, translation memories and machine translation, the use of which is expected to yield benefits in terms of quantity and quality if the necessary investment is made in equipment and training. The Secretary-General invites the General Assembly to approve the proposed continuation of the production of summary records in the original language only (English or French), complemented by supplemental systems to be put in place to meet the demand of Member States (A/66/118, paras. 70 and 71). The Advisory Committee recalls that the question of alternative delivery of summary records and the available supplemental systems had been discussed extensively in its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/7, paras. I.55-I.58). In its report, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider the Secretary-General's proposal in the light of the outcome of the relevant deliberations of the Committee on Conferences, taking into account the views of the bodies entitled to summary records. The Advisory Committee noted the deliberations of the Committee on Conferences on the Secretary-General's proposal (see A/66/32, para. 56). **The Advisory Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that the proposal be considered by the General Assembly and stresses the importance of taking into consideration the opinions of the bodies entitled to summary records.**

Proposal to enforce word limits for reports of treaty bodies and reports of States parties

28. The Secretary-General invites the General Assembly to further reinforce the course of action proposed in the report of the chairs of the human rights treaty bodies (A/65/190, annex II, para. 22), namely, that Member States be requested to respect the word limit when submitting treaty body reports. According to the Secretary-General, such limits would have a positive impact on the work burden for all concerned (A/66/118, para. 72). The Advisory Committee notes that the requirement for word limits applies to the Secretariat and to intergovernmental bodies but not to States parties to treaty bodies. The Committee further notes that, according to the Secretary-General, there was a 42 per cent increase in submissions of treaty body documents from Member States in 2010, the largest of which was in excess of 87,000 words (approximately 274 pages). **As expressed previously in its comments on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, the Committee considers that the imposition of page/word limits is a matter to be decided by the General Assembly (A/66/7, para. I.63).**

Proposal to amend the current arrangements for the provision of conference services to funds and programmes

29. During its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, the Advisory Committee was informed that the translation of documents originating from the funds and programmes was currently funded by regular budget resources under section 2. The Secretary-General was proposing to eliminate those requirements from section 2 of the budget and enter into a new arrangement with the funds and programmes concerned whereby they would contract directly with the Department for translation services on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. The Committee was informed at that time that the proposal would lead to a reduction of approximately $8 million in budgetary requirements for the Department and that the Executive Heads of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA had been notified of the proposed change. The Committee expressed the view that regular budget activities should not subsidize extrabudgetary ones and recommended that the proposal be referred, as appropriate, to the Committee on Conferences for discussion (ibid., para. I.61). The Advisory Committee was subsequently informed that the proposal had not been considered by the Committee on Conferences because it was a budgetary matter. **As previously stated, the Advisory Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's proposal and reiterates that regular budget funds should not subsidize extrabudgetary activities. The Committee therefore recommends that, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General's proposal by the General Assembly, reduced requirements of $8 million be reflected under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.**

United Nations A/66/398

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 107
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the 21 United Nations Member States that constitute the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking (Bahrain, Belarus, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), the Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted at the second ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, convened on 26 September 2011 on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be appreciated if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107.

(*Signed*) Zoya **Kolontai**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Second ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking

Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

We, the Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, having met on 26 September 2011 on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York,

1. *Recall* the declaration adopted at the first ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, held on 22 September 2010 on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/65/497, annex), which has contributed to enhancing joint efforts of the Group of Friends in implementing the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

2. *Stress* the importance of discouraging demand with a view to successfully preventing and combating trafficking in persons;

3. *Stress* also the need to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, as a comprehensive document aimed at promoting a coordination mechanism in combating trafficking in persons among key partners, including United Nations Member States, international organizations, mass media, the private sector and civil society;

4. *Acknowledge* that the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons promotes national and international efforts in preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting perpetrators and protecting victims and *recall*, in this regard, the adoption of the anti-trafficking resolutions of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the seventeenth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the twentieth session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which broaden international cooperation in combating trafficking in persons by recognizing the importance of comprehensive and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

5. *Welcome* the launching of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children under the aegis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invite United Nations

Member States, philanthropic institutions, the private sector and all other parties concerned to contribute to the above-mentioned Trust Fund;

6. *Note with appreciation* the steps taken by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, within their existing mandates, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and *encourage* them to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

7. *Welcome* the adoption by the twentieth session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons" and *invite* other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in particular by strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving this goal;

8. *Recognize* the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) in fighting trafficking in persons and *call* upon ICAT to include, as a matter of priority, in the agenda of its annual consultations the issues related to the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

9. *Recognize* also that intensified cooperation among United Nations Member States and international organizations plays a crucial role in full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and, therefore, *encourage* international organizations to work in close partnership with the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking in New York and its chapters in Vienna and Geneva;

10. *Express* support for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in fighting trafficking in persons and, therefore, *look forward* to the elaboration, starting in 2012, by UNODC of a global report on trafficking in persons, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels, including best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms;

11. *Decide* to convene a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

United Nations A/66/399

General Assembly

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3 October 2011

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 143
Administration of justice at the United Nations

Letter dated 23 September 2011 from the Presidents of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal and the United Nations Dispute Tribunal to the President of the General Assembly

We have the honour to write to you, on behalf of the judges of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal and the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, to express to the General Assembly our concern regarding recommendations on the procedure for the amendment of the rules of procedure of the Tribunals, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/275) and in the report of the Internal Justice Council (A/66/158) regarding item 143 of the agenda, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations".

In paragraph 250 of his report, the Secretary-General "recommends that the General Assembly encourage the Tribunals to consult with the parties appearing before them when making amendments to their rules of procedure". In paragraph 58 of its report, the Internal Justice Council recommends a procedure for consultation by posting the proposed amendments on the Tribunals' section of the website of the Office of Administration of Justice and inviting interested parties to comment.

The judges would first like to recall that article 6, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal and article 7, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal provide that the Tribunals shall establish their own rules of procedure, which shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly, thereafter listing mandatory provisions these rules are to contain. Article 32 of the rules of procedure of the Appeals Tribunal and article 37 of the rules of procedure of the Dispute Tribunal further state that the Tribunals "in plenary meeting may adopt amendments to the rules of procedure, which shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval". Paragraph 2 of both provisions further provides that the "amendments shall operate provisionally until approved by the General Assembly".

It follows that the General Assembly has foreseen a very clear procedure for the amendment of the rules. Under this procedure, amendments are adopted by the Tribunals, applied provisionally and submitted to the Assembly for approval. The procedure does not include any consultation or discussion with interested parties prior to the submission of amendments to the Assembly, since it is solely a matter for the Assembly to decide whether to approve the amendments as submitted by the

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Tribunals. Presumably, the Assembly would, if it finds it necessary, seek further comments from the Tribunals before taking its decision, as was done for the adoption of the rules. This procedure facilitates and enhances the effective administration of the system of internal justice without the risk that the parties to disputes before the Tribunals may seek to procure the promulgation of statutory provisions and rules of procedure that suit their own vested interests rather than the interest of justice.

The process proposed by the Secretary-General, by which the Tribunals would have "to consult with the parties appearing before them", would raise a number of practical difficulties. Many of these difficulties would remain unresolved in the mechanism proposed by the Internal Justice Council.

First, while the representatives of the Secretary-General may be easily identified, are well organized and resourced, and possibly share common interests, it is much more difficult to determine who would represent the interests of potential applicants in such an exercise (e.g., the Office of Staff Legal Assistance, private attorneys regularly appearing before the Tribunals, staff unions in the various duty stations and staff members at large). Second, the many possible stakeholders on the applicants' side would probably not be in a position to submit common unified proposals and may even hold opposing views. Third, a truly inclusive consultation process would require major organizational and financial resources to ensure the participation of all those who have a right to appear before the Tribunals, particularly taking into account that these stakeholders are located in various duty stations (not only in New York, Geneva and Nairobi, but also in Vienna, Bangkok, Santiago, etc.). Fourth, an effective consultative process would probably be extremely lengthy and divert, on a long-term basis, the limited human resources at the Tribunals' disposal. Fifth, it is unclear how the proposed consultative process should be conducted.

One further problem that arises is whether the judges would be expected to engage in an open debate with the participating parties and try to reach a consensus on possible amendments. In this regard, the consultative process would entail serious risks of undermining the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers in the system of administration of justice. Moreover, the process could convey the wrong impression that the foundational rules upon which the new formal system of administration of justice operates are open to public debate and may be modified on the initiative of one or the other of the parties appearing before the Tribunals, outside of the General Assembly.

For all these reasons, the judges of the Appeals and Dispute Tribunals consider that they should continue to discharge the functions that have been entrusted to them by the General Assembly, under their respective statutes, regarding the amendment of the rules, without the risks, costs and delays that the proposed consultative process would entail. The judges strongly affirm that, given their impartiality and professionalism, they are best placed to identify areas for improvement in the rules and make proposals for amendments in the interest of justice and in fairness to all parties, without the infliction of competing self-interests.

Finally, the judges of the Appeals and Dispute Tribunals note that the proposal may give the misleading idea that no consultation exists at present. This is not the case. The judges would like to draw the General Assembly's attention to the fact that, despite their not being obliged to consult with stakeholders, the judges of the

Dispute Tribunal have held several stakeholders' meetings, over the past 24 months, at all three duty stations. At those meetings, the representatives or stakeholders have been invited to place their concerns before the judges in a non-intimidating and discursive environment. The judges have kept a record of concerns, discussed them at their plenary meetings, and have taken them into account when considering practice directions and amendments to propose to the Assembly. As for the amendments thus far adopted by the Tribunals, they have been made in light of the experience and insight accumulated during the implementation of the existing rules.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 143 of the agenda.

(*Signed*) Sophia **Adinyira**
President
United Nations Appeals Tribunal

(*Signed*) Memooda **Ebrahim-Carstens**
President
United Nations Dispute Tribunal

United Nations A/66/400

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 53
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/106, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

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1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/106.

2. On 1 June 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on behalf of the Secretary-General, addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel referring to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution and asking the Government of Israel to provide information on any steps that it had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

3. On 1 June 2011, OHCHR, on behalf of the Secretary-General, sent a note verbale to all permanent missions to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva regarding General Assembly resolution 65/106, asking the Governments of Member States to provide information on any steps that they had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. With the exception of a response from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic, no replies had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 23 June 2011, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that it regretted to note that, despite repeated requests from the international community for the complete withdrawal of Israel from the Syrian Golan, Israel continued to occupy Golan, pursued daily repressive practices against the population of Golan and persisted in its flagrant violations of international law and norms with impunity. The Syrian Arab Republic also stated that General Assembly resolution 65/18 confirmed Israel's failure to withdraw from the Syrian Golan and its disregard for the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. That resolution reiterated that Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan in 1981 and its subsequent imposition of Israeli laws, nationality and administration on the Syrian Golan are null and void and without legal effect and must be revoked. The Syrian Arab Republic had affirmed its intense desire to continue to work and cooperate with the United Nations with a view to ending that occupation. On the basis of that understanding, the Syrian Arab Republic stated that United Nations resolutions continued to be the reference for the just and comprehensive resolution of the problems in the Middle East. In the note verbale it was stated that President Bashar Al-Assad had declared on more than one occasion that the Syrian Arab Republic was willing to resume peace negotiations on the same basis on which the Madrid peace process had been started in 1991. It was also noted that the Syrian Arab Republic had declared in all international forums its full commitment to the relevant international resolutions and had called for their implementation, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), and had called for the implementation of the principle of land for peace in order to ensure the full withdrawal by Israel from all of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

5. In its note verbale, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemned Israel's violation of human rights in connection with the killing of peaceful demonstrators who had sought to remind the international community of their right to return to their homeland after four decades of occupation. The Syrian Arab Republic noted the incident of 5 June 2011, when the peaceful Syrian and Palestinian demonstrators commemorating Naksa had been shot by Israeli troops on the Syrian side of the ceasefire line, resulting in 23 martyrs and 350 injured. The

Syrian Arab Republic further noted that similar crimes had been committed on 15 May 2011 during the commemoration of Nakba, near the ceasefire line with the occupied Golan. It stated that Israeli forces had used live ammunition to disperse peaceful protestors, resulting in 15 martyrs and scores injured.

6. In its note verbale, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemned the Israeli campaigns promoting settlement-building in the occupied Golan, the latest of which had been in December 2010 under the slogan "Come to Golan", aimed at bringing more Israeli settler families to Golan. It further deplored the establishment of a new tourist settlement near the settlement of It'am in cooperation with the extremist settlement of Yobatan. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemned the bringing of more settlers to Golan under the name "tourist cities" in al-Batiha region located in the south of the occupied Golan, particularly in the area of Tal Sayadin on the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias. It again condemned the organization of tourist trips by international Jewish organizations to Golan and the promotion of settlements and the development of infrastructure to service those settlements. It noted that those actions demonstrated Israel's disregard for peace and for the decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

7. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemned the distribution by the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in New York of products from the occupied Syrian Golan, and stressed that such behaviour constituted a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 65/179, entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

8. In its note verbale, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic deplored the fact that, in December 2010, Israel had confiscated water sources from the occupied Golan in order to allocate water exclusively to the Israeli settlers, resulting in more than 20 million dollars in financial loss for the Syrian nationals of Golan whose livelihoods depend on farming and fishing. It believes that this is a deliberate violation of the human rights of the Syrian residents of the Golan and constitutes a violation of paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 465 (1980), which called for ensuring the protection of important natural resources of the territories under occupation, including water, as well as paragraph 5 of said resolution which determined that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, or any part thereof, have no legal validity and that Israel's policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants in those territories constitute a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and also constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

9. In its note verbale, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejected the decision of 22 October 2010 of the Israeli Knesset mandating a referendum on any agreement that would lead to the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem and requiring the support of more than 80 per cent of Israelis for such withdrawal. It agreed that the motion represented a violation of, and showed contempt for, international law, which stipulates that territory may not

be acquired by force, and was also incompatible with Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

10. In its note verbale, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirmed the request it had made to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to bring pressure on Israel to ensure that the Syrian prisoners detained in its jails are kept in more humane health conditions. It also expressed its rejection of the trials by the Israeli occupation authorities of Syrian nationals Majed Shaer, sentenced to five and one-half years in prison, his son Fidaa, sentenced to three years in prison, and Yusuf Shams, sentenced to five years in prison. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also emphasized its request to the above-mentioned international figures to put pressure on Israel to rescind its decision to bar visits by citizens from the occupied Syrian Golan to their homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, through the Qunaitra crossing, taking into consideration the material, mental and physical suffering that is caused to Syrian citizens by the Israeli practice, which also contravenes the Geneva Conventions and all international humanitarian instruments and norms. It stressed that Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Golan exceed all legal and moral bounds, the most recent example being the denial of a visit to the family of the young Syrian student, Faras Abu Saleh, who was sick in the hospital. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic called upon the international community to take all necessary measures and put pressure on Israel so that it would comply with its obligations under international law.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 87

Reduction of military budgets

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Archil **Gheghechkori** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Reduction of military budgets:

"(a) Reduction of military budgets;

"(b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures"

was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 35/142 B of 12 December 1980 and 64/22 of 2 December 2009.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 October 2011, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 87 to 106. The general debate on those items was held at the 3rd to 9th meetings, from 3 to 7 and on 10 and 11 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.3-9). The Committee also held 11 meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 10th to 20th meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Action on all draft resolutions and decisions was taken at the 21st to 24th meetings, from 26 to 28 and on 31 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.21-24).

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4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (A/66/117 and Add.1) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the operation and further development of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures (A/66/89 and Corr.1-3).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.35

5. At the 15th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Germany, on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures" (A/C.1/66/L.35). Subsequently, Argentina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Iceland, Liberia and San Marino joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.35.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.35 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/72 of 4 December 1998, 54/43 of 1 December 1999, 56/14 of 29 November 2001, 58/28 of 8 December 2003, 60/44 of 8 December 2005, 62/13 of 5 December 2007 and 64/22 of 2 December 2009 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Recalling also its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993, 49/66 of 15 December 1994, 51/38 of 10 December 1996 and 52/32 of 9 December 1997, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information regarding their implementation,

Noting that, since then, national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographical regions,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Convinced also that transparency in military matters is an essential element for building a climate of trust and confidence between States worldwide and that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and is therefore an important contribution to conflict prevention,

Noting the role of the standardized reporting system, as instituted through its resolution 35/142 B, as an important instrument to enhance transparency in military matters,

Conscious that the value of the standardized reporting system would be enhanced by a broader participation of Member States,

Noting that a periodic review of the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures could facilitate its further development and maintain its continued relevance and operation, and recalling resolution 62/13, in which the General Assembly established the Group of Governmental Experts on the Operation and Further Development of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures,

Recalling, in that regard, the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information

on military matters, including, in particular, on how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,[1]

Recalling also that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the standardized reporting system,

Welcoming the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on further ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, on how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,[2]

Noting the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the Standardized Instrument under the current political and economic circumstances,

Mindful of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including its Article 26,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Operation and Further Development of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures,[2] the recommendations contained therein and the new title of the instrument, namely, the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving the broadest possible participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 30 April annually, with reports on their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using preferably and to the extent possible, one of the reporting forms, including a "nil" report if appropriate, on the basis of recommendations contained in paragraphs 68 to 71 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and annex II thereto, or as appropriate, any other format developed in the context of similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations;

3. *Recommends* that, for the purpose of reporting by Member States of their national military expenditures in the framework of the Report on Military Expenditures, "military expenditures" be commonly understood to refer to all financial resources that a State spends on the uses and functions of its military forces and information on military expenditures represents an actual outlay in current prices and domestic currency;

4. *Also recommends* the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

5. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to supplement their reports, on a voluntary basis, with explanatory remarks regarding submitted data to explain

[1] See A/54/298.

[2] See A/66/89 and Corr.1-3.

or clarify the figures provided in the reporting forms, such as the total military expenditures as a share of gross domestic product, major changes from previous reports and any additional information reflecting their defence policy, military strategies and doctrines;

6. *Invites* Member States to provide, preferably with their annual report, their national points of contact, on the basis of annex II and paragraph 72 (*c*) of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

7. *Encourages* relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarities among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region, and to consider the possibility of an exchange of information with the United Nations;

8. *Takes note* of the annual reports of the Secretary-General;[3]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within available resources:

(a) To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of their Report on Military Expenditures;

(b) To circulate annually a note verbale to Member States detailing which reports on military expenditures were submitted and are available electronically on the website for military expenditures;[4]

(c) To continue consultations with relevant international bodies, with a view to ascertaining requirements for adjusting the present instrument, with a view to encouraging wider participation, and to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the standardized reporting system;

(d) To encourage relevant international bodies and organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to consult with those bodies and organizations with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarities among international and regional reporting systems and for exchanging related information between those bodies and the United Nations;

(e) To continue to foster further cooperation with relevant regional organizations with a view to raising awareness of the Report on Military Expenditures and its role as a confidence-building measure;

(f) To encourage the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist Member States in their regions in enhancing their knowledge of the standardized reporting system;

(g) To promote international and regional/subregional symposiums and training seminars to explain the purpose of the standardized reporting system and to give relevant technical instructions;

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[3] A/58/202 and Add.1-3, A/59/192 and Add.1, A/60/159 and Add.1-3, A/61/133 and Add.1-3, A/62/158 and Add.1-3, A/63/97 and Add.1 and 2, A/64/113 and Add.1 and 2, A/65/118 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 and A/66/117 and Add.1.

[4] www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Milex/.

(h) To report on experiences gained during such symposiums and training seminars;

(i) To provide, upon request, technical assistance to Member States lacking the capacity to report data, and to encourage Member States to voluntarily provide bilateral assistance to other Member States;

(j) To encourage the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, with the financial and technical support of interested States, as appropriate, to continue to improve the existing database on military expenditures with a view to making it more user-friendly and up-to-date technologically and to increasing its functionality;

10. *Encourages* Member States:

(a) To inform the Secretary-General about possible problems with the standardized reporting system and their reasons for not submitting the requested data;

(b) To continue to provide the Secretary-General with their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the future functioning of and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure,

11. *Recommends* the establishment of a process for periodic reviews, in order to ensure the continued relevance and operation of the Report on Military Expenditures and that another review of the continuing relevance and operation of the Report be conducted in five years;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".